UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25868
31 May 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 27 MAY 1993 FROM THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES A.I. OF THE PERMANENT MISSION OF YUGOSLAVIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I am writing to you in connection with the letter dated 14 May 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations (S/25782) addressed to you and the annexed memorandum containing the views and concerns of the members of the Security Council that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries (Cape Verde, Djibouti, Morocco, Pakistan and Venezuela) with regard to the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is deeply regrettable that that memorandum advances an erroneous appraisal of the origins of the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and proposals for its resolution, which cannot unfortunately contribute to the current efforts of the international community to reinstate a just and lasting peace for its peoples. It is particularly unfortunate that such a simplistic approach is put forward by the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries which, inspired by lofty ideals, has always been able to grasp the essence and underlying causes of conflicts by taking into account all their aspects.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia shares the impatience and concern of the international community and the responsibility of the members of the Security Council in their endeavours to bring about an end to the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the region as a whole. The cessation of the hostilities and the laying down of the groundwork for a comprehensive and just solution cannot be achieved however with resort to a one-sided and biased approach.

Notwithstanding the rationale of some of the proposals put forward in the memorandum, particularly those pertaining to the need to develop a comprehensive peace-keeping and post-conflict peace-building scenario, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia cannot however accept some of the premises of the memorandum, whose main aim is to discredit the Serbian people as a whole and to condemn the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia for alleged aggression.

The views contained in paragraph 13 of the memorandum, that "Serbia had already embarked on a policy to carve out a Greater Serbia from the territory of former Yugoslavia" is a malicious concoction devoid of any factual evidence. In a defamatory attempt to blame only one side, i.e. the Serbian population, for the tragic conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the authors of the memorandum are

ignoring the basic truth that is increasingly being recognized in the international community as a whole that Bosnia and Herzegovina is engulfed in a civil war between the Muslim, Serb and Croat peoples. It is particularly absurd that the Bosnian Serbs are being accused of committing aggression in their own land.

The statement "that this is not a civil war but rather is an international conflict in which a State enjoying international recognition has been subjected to external aggression" is contrary to the evaluations of the Co-Chairmen of the Conference on the Former Yugoslavia as well as leading statesmen who have acknowledged that a civil war is being waged in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

For its part, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and its constituent republics, Serbia and Montenegro, are vitally interested and fully committed to bringing an end to war in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Yugoslavia has endeavoured to play a constructive role throughout the peace talks on the former Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is well-known that the leadership of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republics of Serbia and Montenegro have played a very important role in facilitating acceptance of significant elements of the peace plan by the Bosnian Serbs. As has been widely publicized, the representatives of the Yugoslav and Serbian and Montenegrin parliaments, in their declaration of 14 May 1993, called upon the Bosnian Serbs to accept the Vance-Owen plan, since it provides mechanisms for the protection and safety of all Serbs.

Despite the Co-Chairmen's warnings that the lifting of the arms embargo could only further aggravate the situation on the ground in Bosnia and Herzegovina and lead to the escalation of the conflict, it is indeed regrettable that the authors of the memorandum are still considering this as a viable option. In the light of the recent inflammation of hostilities between the Croatian and Muslim sides, it is mind-boggling that anyone can opt for a lifting of the arms embargo and bringing any more weapons to the region.

Finally, it is surprising that, in assessing the situation, the authors of the memorandum failed adequately to address the involvement of Croatia, thus minimizing the participation of Croatian troops in the armed conflict and occupation of parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina adjacent to Croatia.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Chargé d'affaires a.i.